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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Illegal Immigrants. Drivers' Licenses. College Expenses. Public Benefits.
Initiative Constitutional Amendment

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their measure.

The Attorney General's official title and summary is as follows:

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. DRIVERS' LICENSES. COLLEGE EXPENSES. PUBLIC BENEFITS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Prohibits illegal immigrants from obtaining: drivers' licenses or government-identification cards; college-fee or tuition exemptions; government grants, contracts, or loans; professional or commercial licenses; or any other public benefits not required by federal law. Authorizes state citizens to sue to enforce prohibitions, requires State to defend initiative, and provides costs and attorney's fees to prevailing party. Imposes personal liability for litigation costs, attorney's fees, and actual damages on any elected or government official who willfully violates prohibitions. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Program savings to the state and local governments due to reduced expenditures for certain public services. These savings could be in the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually. (06-0032.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1229 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 06-0032.

The proponents for this measure, Jeff Evans, Mike Spence and Richard Mountjoy, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, equal to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is February 20, 2007. The initiative proponents can be reached at 916-858-8190.